



Since 2005, NOAA has invested over \$1 million to clean up and restore the Anacostia Watershed.

Restoring resources

Working with the U.S. EPA and the Maryland State Highway Association, NOAA is helping engineer, design, and restore tidal wetlands along an upper stretch of the Anacostia River, near Bladensburg. This project alone will **increase tidal wetlands by 20%.**

NOAA is partnering with the Council of Governments to improve fish habitat and expand watershed groups in the northeast branch of the Anacostia River. The project will complete removing and monitoring of two blockages to fish (blueback and alewife herring) that use the area as migration to spawning grounds.

In 2006, NOAA began designing plans for tidal wetland restoration, preserving existing non-tidal wetlands, and daylighting Poplar Point's Stickfoot Creek, which is now a sewer outfall.

NOAA is also completing monitoring of Indian Creek, Upper Beaverdam Creek and Still Creek to evaluate current use by river herring and inventory other sites in need of restoration.

Removing trash

NOAA funded and worked with the Council of Governments and other partners to develop the **Anacostia Trash Reduction Strategy**, one of the first strategies to focus solely on trash in the Chesapeake Bay region.

NOAA and partners completed two trash cleanups with local partners in the Anacostia's Watts Branch Subwatershed, the poorest and most environmentally degraded subwatershed.

In 2005 and 2006, NOAA cosponsored the Potomac Trash Free Summit spearheaded by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. The Summit was facilitated by Congressman Van Hollen and brought together ~400 leaders in the region to achieve a trash-free Potomac watershed by 2013. NOAA is now funding and working with AFF to develop a trash awareness media campaign.

NOAA co-sponsored the 2007 Anacostia Watershed Society's annual Earth Day celebration. Roughly 1,000 citizens participated in a morning trash cleanup and listened to Representative Steny Hoyer celebrate the day with a commitment to help implement recommendations from the NOAA-funded *Anacostia Trash Reduction Strategy*.

Building stewardship

Since 2001, NOAA's **Bay Watershed Education & Training Program** has provided funding and technical assistance to K-12 schools and non-profit providers in the watershed. Specifically, NOAA has funded 21 partners that work solely or primarily in the watershed.

NOAA's **Emerging Scientists Project** has run programs in twelve high schools and provided ~25 District teachers with the ability to bring oceanic and atmospheric sciences into their classroom. On board NOAA ships based in the Chesapeake Bay, teachers conduct research and a wide range of physical, chemical and biological sampling.

In 2005, NOAA funded and worked with the Anacostia Watershed Society, to promote stewardship among ~100 students through river education and cleanup programs in Watts Branch—one of the poorest and more environmentally degraded subwatersheds.

Addressing contaminants

NOAA has partnered with the District and the National Park Service to assess and develop clean-up and habitat restoration plans at Poplar Point—one of the few areas of open, relatively undisturbed habitat along the lower Anacostia.

NOAA also helped conduct tidal river spatial analysis that **identified seven contaminated sediment hotspots**. Partners are now exploring how best to address these hotspots through sediment cleanup and/or source control.

NOAA has compiled decades' worth of information about the functioning of the river and helped develop a conceptual model for the fate and transport of contaminants within the watershed and a management plan to address legacy contamination of sediments.

Providing public access to data

To better understand what and where contaminants are in the river, NOAA helped develop the **Anacostia Watershed Database and Mapping Project**—a comprehensive database and geographic information tool.

NOAA recently worked with **14 partners to deliver summaries from 35 data sets** on a publicly available internet mapping site. Now all interests—local, state, and federal agencies, academia, interest groups, residents, students and others—will have access to consistent information, ensuring more informed decisionmaking..

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